

AMENDED CLAIM SET

The claims have been amended as set forth in the following listing of the claims:

Claims 1-19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) A high temperature treating method for inflators for an air bag, said inflators having metal housing shells with wiring harnesses attached thereto for activation and combustible gas generating material therein, comprising:

cutting and removing said wiring harnesses from the inflators;

grouping said inflators according to metals constituting said housing shells;

charging the respective groups of inflators which have been subjected to treatment in the preceding steps into thermal treating towers to subject said inflators to thermal treatment at a temperature at which said gas generating materials inside the inflators burn without melting those metals constituting said housing shells; and

recovering inflators to be thermally treated by cutting said wiring harnesses from the inflators at a root portion of the wiring harnesses,

wherein said charging step includes the step of carrying out the thermal treatment at a temperature not lower than 450°C and not higher than 700°C, such that~~lower than that which melts a grouped metal constituting said housing shells~~ does not melt and higher than 500°C.

21. (previously presented) A method for recovering those metals constituting the housing shells of inflators after completing the high temperature treating method according to claim 20, comprising:

subsequently cooling the interior of the thermal treating tower, thereafter removing said inflators from said tower, and thereafter melting the inflators.